



ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION
ON MATERNAL HEALTH



**Cardiac Conditions in
Obstetric Care Element
Implementation Details**



Cardiac Conditions in Obstetric Care Implementation Details

Recognizing that cardiac conditions are complex, further details are offered here to support portions of Cardiac Conditions in Obstetric Care Bundle implementation.

Readiness — Every Unit

Readiness Element	Key Points
Unit	All care settings potentially including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency Departments• Urgent Care• Other practice areas where health care providers may not have specialized training in the care of pregnant and postpartum people
Cardiac Conditions Screen	Should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient history of cardiac conditions• Patient-reported symptoms• Vital signs• Physical examination
Multidisciplinary Care Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May be known as a “Pregnancy Heart Team” or similar designated group of responders for OB Cardiac emergency care• Including elements of telehealth as appropriate• Consultants should be appropriate to their facility’s designated Maternal Level of Care
Resources should include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialist care• Social driver needs• Mental health supports• Substance use disorder treatment



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Recognition & Prevention — Every Patient

Recognition Element	Key Points
<p>Screening for community support needs and resources provided</p>	<p>Screening should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical needs • Mental health needs • Substance use disorder needs • Structural and social drivers of health <p>All provided resources should align with the pregnant or postpartum patient's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health literacy • Cultural needs • Language proficiency • Geographic location and access

Response — Every Event

Response Element	Key Points
<p>Reproductive Life Planning</p>	<p>Considerations may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using shared medical decision-making • Congruence with patient's goals and values • Contraceptive options • Birth spacing and pregnancy intention • Chest or breastfeeding • Other parenting choices as prioritized by the pregnancy or postpartum person
<p>Patient education</p>	<p>Should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who to contact with medical and mental health concerns, ideally stratified by severity of condition or symptoms • Review of warning signs/symptoms • Reinforcement of the value of outpatient postpartum visits • Summary of delivery events



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Response — Every Event (continued)

Response Element	Key Points
Patient education	<p>All education provided should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In appropriate lay terminology • Aligned with the postpartum person’s health literacy, culture, language, and accessibility needs • Include a designated support person for all teaching with patient permission (or as desired)

Reporting and Systems Learning - Every Unit

Reporting Element	Key Points
Multidisciplinary Case Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent issues should be reported via established pathways

Respectful, Equitable, and Supportive Care — Every Unit/Provider/Team Member

Respectful Care Element	Key Points
Inclusion of the patient as part of the multidisciplinary care team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of trust • Informed, bidirectional shared decision-making • Patient values and goals as the primary driver of this process
<p>Patient support networks may include nonfamilial supports, such as doulas and home visitors, who, with the postpartum person’s permission, should be welcomed when any teaching or planning is provided.</p>	

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